

The Baptist Record

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Shelton's book reveals valuable treasures —

Friend, faith restored marriage to country singer

NASHVILLE (BP) — Five years ago, Bettye Shelton should have been on top of the world.

Her husband, popular recording artist Ricky Van Shelton, was at the top of the country music charts with album sales going through the roof and dozens of awards coming in at every turn.

The couple had everything money could buy: a nice home, a new car, a boat.

"But we were living a nightmare," Shelton told employees at the Baptist Sunday School Board during a Nov. 17 chapel service. "There was no happiness in our lives and there was no love between us."

Ricky was constantly on the road and he had begun drinking heavily, Bettye said. They grew increasingly distant.

Lonely and rejected, Shelton said she found herself making a call to an old boyfriend. She dialed the number twice, hanging up before anyone answered.

"I was so desperate to feel loved, to feel like a woman again. I cried out to God: 'What's happening to me? What's wrong? Please help me!'"

At the moment she cried out, her phone rang.

On the other end was a woman she barely knew, a woman who would eventually become a life-long friend and play a key role in saving her marriage.

"I just felt something in my spirit; I knew something was wrong (with Bettye)," singer/songwriter Andy Landis said in the same chapel service, explaining the reason for her call. She

had met Bettye only twice, introduced through her then-fiance and now-husband Steve Buckingham, a record producer who had played a pivotal role in making Ricky a star.

"I couldn't get my mind off her for weeks. Literally, I would wake up in the middle of the night crying for her.... I just felt like she might need someone to talk to."

No stranger to heartache herself, Landis had survived cancer, rape, and sexual molestation as a child. She knew the struggle of facing troubles alone.

Determined to reach out, she visited Bettye the very next evening at the Sheltons' farmhouse located on a 150-acre ranch just outside Nashville. After a dinner party with friends, the two women stayed up talking until early in the morning. Landis listened as Bettye poured out her heart about her failing marriage.

"The next morning we ended up getting together for prayer on their farm," Landis recounted. The two women watched the sunrise and Landis led Bettye in a prayer that turned her life and her marriage over to God.

"I knew that God's Son had risen in my heart," Shelton said, "and I surrendered my problems to him. I knew that only God could save me from the mess I'd made out of my life."

Landis also made a commitment as she drove away from the Shelton farm that morning — to stick by her new friend "no matter what." That would turn out to be a serious pledge, as things got worse before they got better for

the Sheltons.

"Ricky came home and my husband said to me: 'I just don't love you anymore.' I remember the pain and disappointment I felt that morning. I felt that my Father had let me down."

Eventually, the Sheltons separated and Bettye learned her husband had been unfaithful. Landis stood by her friend, frequently meeting together in person or over the phone to share Scripture and pray.

Through her faith in God and encouragement and support from Landis and other friends, Shelton stood by her husband and they later reconciled. Ricky gave up drinking and recommitted his life both to Christ and his wife. In recent years, the couple has shared their testimony with thousands of men and women across the country.

"I'm so thankful today that God has blessed me with a godly husband. And he's blessed me with an incredible friend (Landis) who has taught me how to give and how to live, no matter what," Shelton said.

With her husband's blessing, Bettye coauthored a book with Landis that details the Sheltons' marital struggles and eventual triumph. The book, *She Stays*, is subtitled, "How God Inspired a Friendship That Saved Bettye and Ricky Van Shelton's Marriage."

Landis also wrote a song by the same title. She sings it as a duet with Ricky Van Shelton on the new album, "Common Ground," a compilation of religious and inspirational songs performed by some

of today's top country stars.

The two women told Sunday School Board employees they are thankful to be able to share their story of hope and commitment with others who may find themselves in difficult situations.

"If you think we are courageous or something special, we are not," Landis said. "We have just

given our lives over to the Lord. ... It takes two people standing together to overcome all kinds of trials. The Lord has taught me through this, he will be faithful to me."

Shelton agreed. "What he has done for me, he can do for anybody and everybody!"



Bettye Shelton (right), wife of country music recording artist Ricky Van Shelton, and singer/songwriter Andy Landis greet Baptist Sunday School Board employees during a Nov. 17 book signing in Nashville. The two women signed copies of their book, *She Stays*, a true story of how Landis' friendship helped save Shelton's marriage. Landis also wrote a song by the same name which is featured on the new CD, "Common Ground," a compilation of religious and inspirational songs performed by some of today's top country artists. Both products are available at or can be ordered through Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores. (BP photo by David Rogers)

Cracking the cocoon

As Americans "cocoon" at an increasing rate, churches must concentrate on how to reach stay-at-home people through the medium they best understand: television. "Properly used for God's glory, television can be a tremendous witnessing tool and it can open all sorts of doors for witness," said Jim Henry, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Church, Orlando, Fla. First Church's broadcasting has opened new fields of spiritual harvest in central Florida, he pointed out. "We receive many calls from people who are in hospitals and nursing homes. By following up on these calls, we have led many people to Christ," he said. Henry also credits the church's media ministry for numerous calls from people who have no church home but are in need of a minister for a loved one's funeral service. "A media ministry may or may not add names to your church roll, but that shouldn't be its purpose. Its purpose is to proclaim the gospel, to make (people) aware of the saving power of Christ," Henry pointed out.

Check it out

Christians must learn to approach so-called "spiritual movements" with a critical eye and an understanding of what the Bible says about such events, said the director of interfaith witness for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. "We need today, in this nation and across the Southern Baptist Convention, discriminating and discerning churches and pastors who understand and who test and discern when God is really at work and when he isn't. We can know the difference," Phil Roberts explained. Citing 1 John 4:1-7 and 2 Cor. 11, Roberts said, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits. We live in a pluralistic, mixed-up, confused world from a spiritual point of view. There are evidences and characteristics that we know only the Spirit of God will produce when he is alive and at work among his people." Roberts urged Christians to remain focused on evangelizing the lost, rather than jumping on the bandwagon of every movement that comes along.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Evelyn Lindsey, charter choir member at Fairview Church, Columbus, will continue making beautiful music thanks to alert choir members who administer CPR after she suffers a heart attack minutes before the Sunday morning worship service.

20 years ago

Duck Hill native L.J. Brewer, currently pastor of First Church, Sudbury, Mass., is called to serve as director of the Southern Baptist General Association of New England, a six-state association sponsored by the Maryland Baptist Convention.

50 years ago

Mississippi Governor Thomas L. Bailey joins messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention at dedication services for the new Baptist Building, located on the southeast corner of North Congress and Mississippi Streets in downtown Jackson.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Reshaping your view of giving

Baptists have been generous people toward missions for many years. Revivals, world mission conferences, the WMU and Brotherhood emphasizing the needs on the mission fields; have long promoted the giving opportunity of Southern Baptists.

As we reshape our view of the world it could well shape our thinking about giving. Seeing the world through the eye of God would surely spotlight the lostness of man and the compassion of our Lord. He looked over the city of Jerusalem and wept. The Samaritan saw the need and became involved. For 150 years the Foreign Mission Board has been the channel through which we carry out the Great Commission.

The Lottie Moon Christmas offering is a large part of the offering used to support our mis-

sionaries. We can't look at the needs of our church and make our best offering. We can't look at the denomination and make the giving decision. The giving view must be shaped by our view of God. The national goal for the Lottie Moon offering is \$100 million. This will only be achieved by seeing the world from the Master's viewpoint.

The illustration of the little boy who wanted to buy the crippled dog is appropriate: "No, no," said the dog's owner, "he is severely crippled and will be put to sleep."

The lad pulled up his pants leg to show the scars, braces, and deformity. "I want him, Mister," he said. "You don't know what love can do."

I think of a pastor on Ullung Island off the coast of Korea. He

had few of the world's goods but he had a tremendous love for his Lord and his church. He remained at his task though there were many temptations to leave. Love will nail you to the task.

In Manila I baptized Lladio when he was 74 years old. He was so happy to be a believer. After the baptism he showed me his new Bible. The price tag (23 pesos) was still inside. This was the equivalent of several days' work for Lladio.

"Pastor," he said, "I want you to know I'm serious about this."

Lladio's new Bible says we are to "prove the sincerity of your love."

Our Lottie Moon gift for foreign missions will not prove how much we have but it will prove how much of God's world view we possess.

Guest Opinion...

FMB embarks on mission to "The Last Frontier"

By Avery T. Willis Jr.

RICHMOND, Va. — To fulfill our vision statement to "bring all the peoples of the world to saving faith in Jesus Christ," the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board (FMB) recently launched what we call "On Mission with God to the Last Frontier."

It's the next stage in our continuing strategy to reach World A — those people groups with no access to the gospel. In the last 10 years we have moved from having 1% to 13.5% of our resources and missionaries committed to this cutting edge of the biblical Great Commission mandate to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

The purpose of The Last Frontier strategy is to give 2,466 people groups — 31.5% of the world population with no access to the gospel — a chance to hear, understand, and respond to it. This theme is based on three things:

— Fulfilling our shared mission statement;

— Clearly defined statistical data that gives us the best picture of how many peoples have not heard the good news of Jesus Christ;

— 10 years of experience in reaching these peoples by both traditional missions and Cooperative Service International (the FMB arm that reaches out specifically to restricted areas).

The Last Frontier plan is designed to help us focus on sharing the good news with unreached people groups — even as we maintain commitment to reach the lost on traditional "harvest" fields where missionaries work and people respond. We're already focusing on harvest fields with several new initiatives, including extensive church growth studies in 20 missions beginning this year, revising our Missionary Learning Center training, identifying and responding to "hot spots" of opportunity, and broadening partnerships with groups and organizations that can help gather the harvest.

The effort to reach The Last Frontier and reap the harvest simultaneously will take more boldness than Bold Mission Thrust. We don't intend to do one by sacrificing the other; we're trying to balance where there's imbalance. Currently we work among only 69 of the 2,466 unreached people groups — with only 13.5% of our mission force. Let me illustrate what a challenge it will be to correct this imbalance:

1. The number of unreached people in the world, 1.7 billion, equals more than six times the population of the United States. That total includes 193 unreached

"megagroups" of more than a million people each. If you counted each of these people at one per second, it would take you more than 50 years!

2. Most of these people do not have access to the Bible, church, or Christian.

3. Most live behind walls erected by religions or governments hostile to traditional missionary approaches.

4. It will take a mission force equal to our present number of missionaries just to have one missionary unit (single or married couple) assigned to each unreached people group.

We will make The Last Frontier the expanding thrust of our work. We will not neglect the harvest fields or the 3,965 people groups (an additional 24.3% of world population) that technically have access to the gospel but may never have had the chance to respond. We will ask God for many more missionaries and resources to carry the gospel to The Last Frontier. That means we must seriously make strategic decisions at every level of mission work in every area of the world.

Current missionaries will take part in The Last Frontier by 1) adopting an unreached people group for focused prayer; 2) beginning work among such

THE FRAGMENTS

Why ask!

Women in general, and wives particularly, think it is nothing to "ask for directions."

"Why don't you just stop and ask someone?" is an easy thing for a woman to say, unaware of all the emotional problems this presents to the man. Moreover, they will ask this in front of the children, bringing more shame on the recalcitrant husband. Better it is to drive 50 miles out of the way and maintain that omniscient look before your own household.

Now, men have climbed Mt. Everest, walked on the moon, faced the guns of Navarone, and searched for the Holy Grail. These they faced fearlessly, but asking for directions is something else.

Women think Columbus would have discovered America in 1491

had he asked for directions. Lewis and Clark could have done better had they inquired for directions in their Northwest quest. To hear women tell it, the Lost Tribe of Israel has only to blame the men for their plight.

There are psychological and practical factors involved in man's inability to ask information pertaining to directions.

First, to do so would be admitting there is something you don't know, which is damaging to a man's ego.

Second, it requires submission to the directions of another, which strikes deeply at a man's pride.

Third, whatever you do, you can be assured the wife will say, "See, I told you so."

— GH

groups in countries they now serve; and 3) staying open to God's leadership about the place and people with whom he wants them to work.

God is inviting all who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to be on mission with him. I am asking you to join us in seeking where God is moving and how

you should be involved.

Let me ask you to seriously consider if God is calling you to be on mission with him overseas, or to increase your giving to support additional missionaries he wants to send overseas.

Willis is FMB senior vice president for overseas operations.

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State convention meetings highlighted by surprises

(ABP) — A surprise win by conservatives in North Carolina, the rejection by Alabama Baptists of a plan aimed at resolving a conflict with Samford University and a resolution in Florida pitting 1 million Baptists against the Disney Co. were among highlights of Baptist state convention meetings this fall.

Controversy between conservatives and moderates also took center stage for portions of annual meetings in Texas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, and Tennessee. Other states met in relative quiet, compared to earlier years when a war raged between the two factions in the 15 million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

Moderates in North Carolina were stunned by the surprise election of a conservative president. Greg Mathis, pastor of Mud Creek Church in Hendersonville, defeated moderate candidate Dewey Hobbs for the office. The 1.1 million-member state convention has long been considered a moderate stronghold.

Alabama Baptists rejected a plan proposed by leaders that would have in effect endorsed action last year by trustees of Samford University to make the school's board self-perpetuating. The plan offered an optional "new paradigm" for institutions of the state convention that would allow Baptists in the state only to ratify — not substitute — members to boards of trustees.

Moderates held on to control in Texas, easily electing presidential candidate Charles Wade of Arlington over a conservative challenger. They also adopted a budget that will send less money from Texas to the SBC and keep more in the state for starting new churches. Conservatives opposed the reduction, saying it will hurt international ministries of the SBC.

Two other states joined Texas in altering their support of the SBC.

Citing financial pressures on the state convention, Oklahoma Baptists voted to reduce by 2% the share of the Cooperative Program unified budget they forward on to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Oklahoma convention now retains 60% of those funds for use in-state. At one time it divided funds with the SBC 50-50.

Mississippi Baptists voted without debate to change the way they fund home missions in the state. The state will reduce funding to the SBC by about \$250,000 and use the money to assume total responsibility for home missions work in Mississippi. Until now, that work was shared with the SBC Home Mission Board.

Kentucky Baptists took control of two state convention camps away from their Executive Board, giving them separate boards of directors. The move was in reaction to plans to sell the Cedarmore assembly, which has been losing money.

Kentucky messengers also denied a move to defund the state Baptist paper, **Western Recorder**, to force it to a more-conservative editorial posture. Messengers voted down the motion by Mayfield pastor Ray Werline by about a four-to-one margin.

Louisiana Baptists elected a conservative president but turned down a constitutional amendment that would have installed inerrancy as the state convention's official stance. Slidell pastor Michael Claunch won 52% of a presidential vote over moderate candidate Eddie Simmons of Lake Charles.

The amendment stating the Bible is without error — which leaders said would merely codify what has been an unofficial stance — fell seven votes short of a two-thirds majority needed for passage.

Tennessee Baptists turned back two efforts to distance the state convention from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a moderate group not sanctioned by the conservative-led SBC.

Tennessee Baptists elected retired pastor Howard Olive, a Fellowship leader, to the state's executive board and adopted a resolution supporting Woman's Missionary Union, a national auxiliary whose leaders have been criticized for cooperating with the Fellowship.

Virginia Baptists handled busi-

ness with little debate, electing a slate of moderate officers unopposed. Conservatives in the state decided to boycott this year's convention and instead held their own meeting, where they decided against forming a separate state convention but hired an executive director in anticipation of a possible

split sometime in the future.

Arkansas Baptists elected President Bill Clinton's pastor, Rex Horne of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, as their state convention president. They distanced themselves from some Clinton policies, however, adopting resolutions against abortion

and homosexuality.

Clinton, a long-time Southern Baptist, has been criticized by fellow Baptists for his pro-choice abortion position and his advocacy of equal rights for gays. Horne, a moderate, defeated Stephen Davis of Russellville, a conservative, for the post.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

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FMB leaders discuss best use of missions workers, resources

FORT WORTH (BP) — A balance must be achieved between focusing on "World A," the unevangelized portion of the world, and those areas of the world where the harvest traditionally has been strong, according to Jerry Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board (FMB).

"I have a deep personal, biblical, missiological conviction that we as Christians are going to be held responsible for every person that does not have an opportunity to hear the gospel of Christ," Rankin said during an Oct. 31 open forum at Southwestern Seminary.

Rankin also noted the administrative dilemma of having limited personnel and resources.

Rankin, along with FMB vice president for overseas operations Avery Willis, and Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, answered questions from students, faculty and staff in a dialogue session held as part of the Oct. 30-Nov. 3 Global Missions Week emphasis at the seminary's Fort Worth campus.

Rankin noted there are nearly 2,500 distinct ethnic/linguistic groups in the world who have not had access to the gospel, but the task of reaching them is not impossible.

Willis commented Southern Baptists traditionally have held more of a harvest theology, but "On Mission with God: The Last Frontier" is what the FMB calls a renewed push to reach the 31.5% of the world's population who have never heard of Jesus.

"The reasons they haven't been reached are that they're behind walls. There are hostile governments there. There are other religions there. But we're saying that does not negate the commission."

Kammerdiener explained one factor in determining how people groups are targeted is "gateway groups."

"If you touch that one group, you may have inroads into half a dozen other people groups. Good strategy would seem to say to us you ought to touch those strategic places where making an impact in one group will open

other doors for you."

Another student asked if that meant the FMB needed another 4,000 missionaries.

"It's going to take that many people," Willis answered. "But one of the things we're doing in areas that are not World A is to emphasize how to get the churches that have been started to be missionaries." He said the Brazilians, Koreans, and Japanese have been particularly good at going to other nations.

Rankin said he was enthusiastic about the current mission effort, but embarrassed about the Bold Mission Thrust goal of 5,000 missionaries on the field by the turn of the century.

"That is such an embarrassingly minimal number," he said.

The Baptist Union of New Zealand, which has about 200 to 300 churches, has one missionary for every 12 members, Rankin related.

"My math may not be too sharp, but if we had just 1% of the 15 million Southern Baptists — just one out of a hundred — how many missionaries would we have on the mission field?"

Given such enormous need, another student asked, why the concern about Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) providing materials for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship?

Rankin was quick to affirm "any church supporting any mission that's trying to reach our world — that's in the lordship of Christ. And we're not in competition with anyone trying to reach our world." Yet he said what holds Southern Baptist churches together is not doctrine or missions, but voluntary cooperation. "So we are very committed to maintaining and continuing that cooperative unified effort of working together as a denomination in missions."

Historically, the FMB has been dependent on missions education in the church, prayer support, and other work of WMU, Rankin stressed.

"We believe for the WMU, as a convention entity, to give endorsement and support to fragmented and diversified groups is simply contrary to and sabotaging that whole cooperative way of doing missions."

(See Guest Opinion on page 2.)

Scholars: divisions will remain

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (ABP) — A hundred-fifty years after Baptists in America split over slavery, there is little prospect for reunification, according to a recent consultation of scholars.

New divisions threaten to further fragment the Baptist family, said speakers at an Oct. 27-29 colloquium on "Division, Diversity, and Dialogue."

"We have ended slavery as an institution, but we are still slaves to separation," Thomas McKibbens, pastor of First Church in Newton, Mass., told the gathering at First Church in Providence, R.I., the first Baptist congregation established in America.

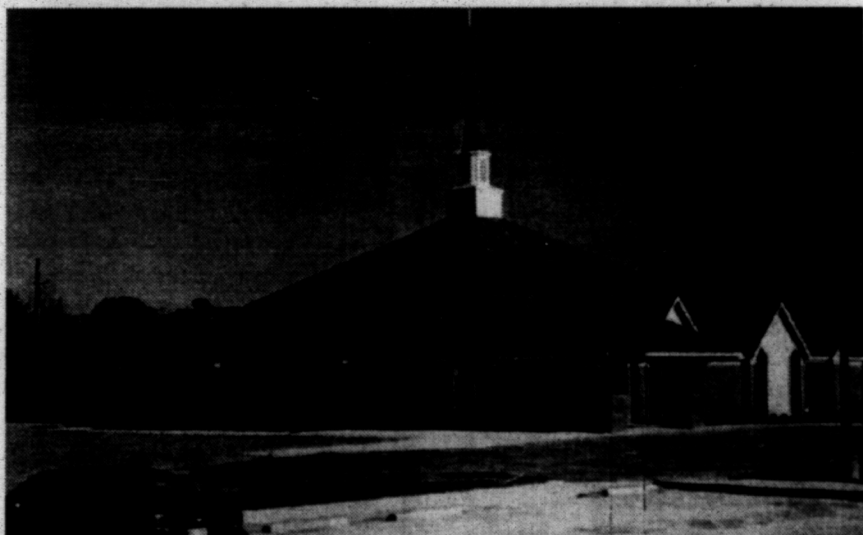
The church also was site for a fateful meeting on Aug. 28, 1845, when members of the Baptist Home Mission Society officially refused to appoint slaveholders as

missionaries and suggested that Baptists sympathetic to slavery withdraw.

Baptists in the South did, meeting a week later in Augusta, Ga., to form the Southern Baptist Convention, now the nation's largest non-Catholic faith group.

Two progressive splinter groups have lately emerged from the SBC's conservative swing — the Alliance of Baptists in 1986 and the larger and more-centrist Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in 1991.

Stan Hastey, executive director of the Alliance of Baptists, said while formal reconciliation is impossible, possibilities exist for "joint ventures" among progressive Baptists across denominational lines in areas such as mission strategy, theological education, publishing and retirement plans for ministers.



Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland, will hold a dedication celebration beginning at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3, at the two-year-old church's new facilities at 1200 Highland Colony Parkway. Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will be the guest speaker. An open house will be held from 4-5:30 p.m. Regular services will begin with Sunday School at 9:15 a.m. and continue with worship service at 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact the church at (601) 856-4031.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering season begins...

Promotion necessary for successful ingathering

By Teresa Dickens

A Southern Baptist church's giving pattern to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions is greatly influenced — if not determined — by the level of promotion given to the offering by church leadership, according to a selected group of church leaders from across the Southern Baptist Convention.

their promotion of the Lottie Moon offering. Those elements include:

PLANNING

The old saying, "If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail," applies to successful promotion of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the leaders suggested. Each of

Church, Houston. "His excitement about the offering and missions is the energy that motivates the church family to give."

Robert Self, pastor of First Church, Brookhaven, agreed: "The pastor must be sold out to it (the offering). He must be willing to ask the people to give. His role has to be up front, not adjunct."

First Church, Brookhaven, is a county seat church in south central Mississippi with an average Sunday School attendance of 775. The church gave nearly \$243,000 to the foreign missions offering in 1994.

VISUAL PRESENTATION

Whether through something as simple as posters or as elaborate as a multi-media event, the church leaders said the promotion should use visual aides. Many also spoke of various methods of marking dollar totals, such as hanging flags, lighting countries on a world map with white lights, or building a collage of the peoples of the world.

PERSONALIZE MISSIONS

"Put a personal face on missions" was the description Bisagno gave to this element of Lottie Moon promotion.

Broadmoor Church, Jackson, personalizes missions for the children of the church through a "Birthday Party for Jesus." The party is hosted by the children's Sunday School Department and has as its theme missions and missions giving, explained Monica Ivy, the church's director of children's ministries.

The party, held during the Sunday School hour, includes birthday cake, a talk on missions from the pastor or another speaker, and the presentation of a gift from each child. The gift is their contribution to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The total of the children's offering is announced in the morning worship service. Last year, the children gave close to \$3,000. The church's total gift for the 1994 Lottie Moon offering was \$100,574.19.

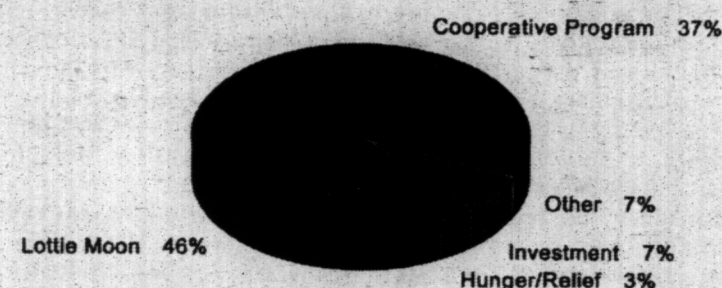
"Having this emphasis among our children has made them more missions oriented," said Marilyn Dedaux, director of the children's Sunday School Department. "They see that they play a part in missions and that the offering is theirs, too, not just Mom and Dad's."

PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN MISSIONS

Both Bisagno and Self noted the impact that involvement in missions has on church members' financial support of missions. Both of their congregations have had many members who have served as missions volunteers in the U.S. and overseas.

"Direct involvement in missions often precedes strong financial support of missions," Self

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD, SBC 1995 Budgeted Income



pointed out. "After someone works as a volunteer on a mission field, they realize how important their support of missions is."

PRAYER

Along with praying for missionaries during the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, leaders said they also pray for their church families.

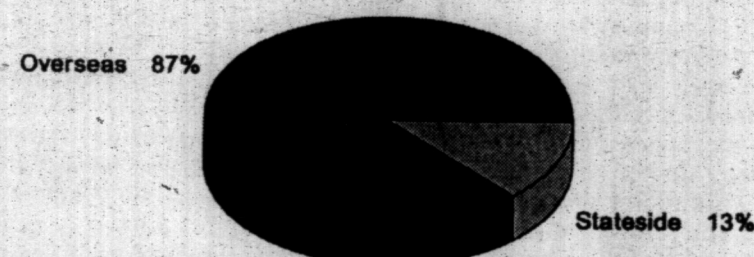
Ruth Harris, WMU director for the Fellowship Church in

Kenosha, Wis., recalled praying during one season of prayer for God to burden five new families to give for the first time, and/or those already giving to give more.

"God answered my prayer," Harris shared. "I was reminded once again through that experience how important prayer is in the support of missions."

Dickens is communication specialist with the SBC WMU in Birmingham.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD, SBC 1995 Budgeted Expenditures



FOREIGN MISSION BOARD, SBC Annual support for a missionary couple* 1995

	First term	Career average
Base salary/longevity allowance	\$19,140	\$22,956
U.S. cost-of-living supplement	3,720	3,720
Housing provided	6,000	6,000
U.S. self-employment tax allowance	2,928	2,928
Pension contribution	3,179	3,560
Medical/dental	4,160	4,160
Life insurance	596	596
AD&D insurance	60	60
Personal property insurance	225	225
Children's college scholarship	0	1,032
Retirement grant	0	449
Outfit allowance		81
	\$40,008	\$45,767

Assumptions: Married couple, appointment age 34, with two children, ages 6 and 4 at time of appointment. Both children complete four years of college. The couple retires at age 65.

* There are many other costs, such as travel and freight, reimbursement of foreign tax, etc., that are considered to be support but not income to the missionary.

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD, SBC Lottie Moon Christmas Offering 1979-95

Christmas	Goal	Received	Percent Increase
1979	\$40,500,000	\$40,597,113	13.02%
1980	45,000,000	44,700,340	10.11
1981*	50,000,000	50,784,173	13.61
1982	58,000,000	54,077,464	6.48
1983	60,000,000	58,025,337	7.30
1984	66,000,000	64,775,764	11.63
1985	70,000,000	66,862,114	3.22
1986	75,000,000	69,412,195	3.81
1987	75,000,000	69,912,638	.72
1988	84,000,000	78,787,726	12.69
1989	81,000,000	80,197,871	1.79
1990	86,000,000	79,358,611	(1.05)
1991	84,000,000	81,358,723	2.52
1992	84,000,000	80,980,881	(0.46)
1993	85,000,000	82,899,291	2.37
1994	86,000,000	85,932,598	3.66
1995	100,000,000		16.37

* Last time goal was met.

Florida, Colorado, Alabama

Florida

TAMPA, Fla. (BP) — Messengers to the State Convention unanimously adopted a statement expressing "disappointment" with recent decisions of the Walt Disney Company they said "erode family values," and they requested the Southern Baptist Convention consider a similar resolution during its annual meeting in New Orleans next June.

In other action, Florida Baptists retained their present 41% allocation to Southern Baptist causes and voted to give a portion of receipts received in excess of the 1995 basic budget to the Cooperative Program; elected Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Church, Pensacola, by acclamation as their new president; and officially severed 112-year ties with Stetson University in Deland.

The 1,439 messengers also adopted a strongly worded resolution opposing casino gambling and pledged to fight a constitutional amendment to legalize gambling in Florida should it appear on the state ballot in November 1996.

The convention action also affirmed Disney employees who share Florida Baptists' concerns; asked churches and the Florida Convention to consider not promoting "Night of Joy," an annual event at Walt Disney World in Orlando designed specifically for Christian youth; and reaffirmed the "family values once promoted" by the company, calling on Michael Eisner, Disney chief executive officer, to reassess what it called "the company's deviation from these values."

Messengers voted to maintain Florida Baptists' 41%, or \$9,951,479, giving to Southern Baptist Convention causes. The 1996 budget of \$24,878,698, representing a 3.38% increase over the 1995 budget, will be divided between SBC causes, 41%; Florida Convention causes, 51.75%; Church Pastoral Aid, 5%; and Church Annuity Program, 3.25%.

Colorado

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. (BP) — Colorado Baptists, celebrating their 40th anniversary, adopted a goal of 500 congregations by the year 2000 — up from the current total of 304.

In other action, a 1996-98 partnership with the Mississippi Baptist Convention was approved, as was Golden Gate Seminary's plan for opening a regional campus in Denver in the fall of 1996. Golden Gate, located in Mill Valley, Calif., is Southern Baptists' only institution in the West.

David C. Cooper, pastor of University Hills Church, Denver, was elected convention president; James Vaughan, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Cortez, first vice president; and Douglas Trevithick,

pastor of Calvary Church, Fort Morgan, second vice president. Rona Davis, a member of Riverside Church, Denver, was re-elected recording secretary.

Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP) — Messengers to the Alabama State Convention voted to build a \$6 million annex to the ABSC's office building, took action on controversies involving two Alabama Baptist universities and re-elected Fred Lackey as ABSC president.

Meeting Nov. 14-15 at the Montgomery Civic Center, the ABSC adopted a record budget of \$31 million for 1995-96 and a challenge budget of \$31,930,000. The percentage breakdown for both budgets remains the same as last year: 57.7% for Alabama Baptist causes and 42.3% for Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Messengers also approved a proposal to build an annex to the present Baptist Building, which has 58,000 square feet. The annex will add 30,000 square feet just east of the present facility and provide additional office space, a conference room, and storage space. The \$6 million figure also provides for renovations to the present building, including a new heating and cooling unit, carpeting, and computer wiring.

The ABSC voted to accept the recommendation of a special committee to return full responsibility for financial monitoring and management of the University of Mobile to the school's board of trustees. The committee's report passed without discussion and overwhelmingly on a show of hands.

Controversy erupted in 1993 after UM established a branch campus in Nicaragua without preapproval by the ABSC and when UM officials allegedly spent in Nicaragua convention funds intended for the Mobile campus.

Messengers also considered matters related to a controversy surrounding Samford University that came about after SU trustees unilaterally changed the school's charter to provide that SU board members would elect their own successors.

The ABSC defeated motions to remove SU funding from the ABSC 1995-96 budget and to sue the SU trustees in an effort to regain the ABSC's right to nominate and appoint the school's trustees.

Messengers also defeated the report of the Samford Study Committee, which was appointed by then-ABSC President Dewey Corder after the September 1994 action by the Samford board.

The committee's report — endorsed by Lackey and by ABSC Executive Secretary Troy Morrison — would have established a "new paradigm" and allowed the board of any incorporated entity of the convention to follow the same path as Samford.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

You keep talking about managing time for a balanced lifestyle. How do I find time for me, my marriage, my children, God, work, church, and on and on?

Take an average week and track everything you do in 15-minute segments. Include everything from the time you awaken until you go to bed — your morning routine, your television time, reading the newspaper, everything. After a week, study your schedule and decide how you can better utilize your time. Are you handling mail more than once? Are you making multiple or unnecessary trips to the store? Can you fold clothes during your television time? Can you do your reading after you drop the kids off at their practices? Be sure to pencil in priority times (God, church, prayer, work, exercise, spouse, etc.), then look at the hours that are left and fill those hours with important activities. It may be that you have to do some "housecleaning" and throw away activities for which you are too

busy. Keep your new schedule close and continue to work on it. Allow yourself a month to get adjusted. Recruit someone who will pray for you and keep you accountable and disciplined. By prioritizing your time and sticking to your schedule, you will get the feeling of being "on top" rather than underneath all the demands on your time.

I need advice on a Christmas gift for a family member whose baby died this year.

You can never go wrong with any act of kindness, and you don't have to spend a lot of money to say that you care. Flowers and a card would be good, but simply remembering them at this crucial time will be well-received. It's a fact that doing nothing is much more vocal than a simple gesture. You don't have to say a lot, but remembering your special moments with the child will be helpful. Parents always like to hear that their child has not been forgotten.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Furgerson: Volunteerism equals spiritual renewal

FORT WORTH (BP) — There's a new cure for spiritual apathy in the local church, and according to Jim Furgerson, Southern Baptists are beginning to buy it.

Short-term mission volunteerism is becoming "the backbone of the small Southern Baptist churches," said Furgerson, Foreign Mission Board director of volunteers for the Volunteer Missions Department.

"If pastors want to change the lives of the people in their churches, they will get them involved."

In an open forum at Southwestern Seminary Nov. 1, Furgerson encouraged

young ministers to get their congregations involved in short-term mission endeavors.

He reiterated a statement made by Henry Blackaby, the director of prayer and spiritual awakening for the Home Mission Board: "Revival will come to the United States as volunteers come home."

Furgerson said individuals who had been involved in short-term missions "increased their prayer lives by 300%."

He said the figure came from a recent survey by a Minneapolis organization. The study also indi-

cated the prayer life of missions volunteers became "missiologically correct" and giving became "systematic and sacrificial," with an increase of 200%.

Another study by Southern Baptists found giving to the Cooperative Program increased by 20% in those churches where short-term mission endeavors had taken place, Furgerson pointed out.

"What that tells me is that when a guy goes to the mission field and gets bitten by the mission bug, his pocketbook is bitten too," he said.

Furgerson said churches conform to New Testament standards when they become

active in short-term experiences.

More than 15,000 Southern Baptists volunteered this year to build churches, preach revivals, and perform a variety of other specialized projects, Furgerson said. Many of those have responded to the FMB needs list, which is updated and published periodically by the Volunteer Missions Department.

A short-term volunteer serves from two weeks to four months in another country at the volunteer's expense. The FMB provides orientation, materials, and other preparatory services for those who apply.

Broadcasters announce times, channels for highlights video

Highlights of the 160th Session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention will be shown on a number of ACTS and other church cable television systems around the state during the week of Dec. 10-17.

The highlights will include an introduction by Bill Causey, inspirational music, church witnessing testimonies, and portions of major messages preached.

"Compelled by His Love..." was the theme of the convention and the title of the 58-minute "Highlights" videotape. The Department of Broadcast Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, produced the video in cooperation with First Church, Jackson; First Church, Hattiesburg; and Anderson Productions of Jackson from many hours of videotape of the convention. Sound & Communications of Jackson provided sound engineers for the convention.

Video tapes of the Bible treasures and some convention sermons will be available from the Department of Broadcast Services on 1/2-inch VHS for loan by Jan. 1, 1996, as well as the convention "Highlights" videotape.

If other churches in the state have access to a cable channel, the Broadcast Services Department will be glad to loan them a 3/4-inch videotape (or S-VHS) for broadcast.

Those churches and cable stations scheduled to run the "Highlights" tape are as follows:

Name	Date	Time	Cable Channel
First BC Bruce	TBA	TBA	Walco/Bruce, Ch. 2 WO7BN LPTV, Ch. 7
First BC Calhoun City	Dec. 12	7 p.m.	Vista Comm. Ch. 27
ACTS Ch. 10	Dec. 14	7 p.m.	
Cleveland	Dec. 11	1 p.m.	Warner Cable Co. Ch. 10
First BC	Dec. 14	1 p.m.	
Grenada	Dec. 13	9 p.m.	W13CS LPTV, Ch. 13
First BC Greenville	Dec. 17	8 p.m.	Bresnan Comm., Ch. 13
First BC Hattiesburg	TBA	TBA	Delta Cablevision Ch. 17
			Pinebelt Cable Ch. 6
	Dec. 10	2 p.m.	
	Dec. 11	7 p.m.	
	Dec. 13	10 a.m.	
	Dec. 14	9 p.m.	
ACTS/Jackson	Dec. 11	9 p.m.	Capitol Cablevision Ch. 23
Jackson	Dec. 12	9 p.m.	
First BC Meridian	TBA	TBA	Comcast Cable Ch. 42
First BC Yazoo City	Dec. 10	7 p.m.	Warner Amex Ch. 10
	Dec. 13	8 p.m.	



Landmark ordination

Jose' Lopez (third from left), pastor of Capilla Bautista El Buen Mission Church in Forest, was ordained to the gospel ministry Oct. 29 at the mission church. Present for the ordination were (from left) Jesse Bennette, minister of music at Sebastopol Church, Sebastopol; John Sharp, director of missions for Scott Association; Lopez; David Sartin, pastor of Sebastopol Church; and Jack Glaze, former interim pastor of the mission church. Capilla Bautista El Buen is a mission church of Sebastopol Church.

Accreditation team visits Southern Seminary, may put school on probation

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Southern Seminary faces its most serious accreditation challenge in recent history, according to seminary faculty and students who met with an accreditation investigation team Nov. 8-10.

Faculty members reportedly asked the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) to place the seminary on a five-year probationary status, with frequent site visits to measure progress. Whether ATS representatives will recommend such a sanction has not been disclosed.

Seminary President Albert Mohler has received a preliminary report from the joint accreditation team, but the contents of that report won't be made public until sometime next year. Due to the confidential nature of accreditation investigations, some parts of the report may never be released.

The joint accreditation team included representatives from the

ATS, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), and the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). ATS and SACS are the seminary's primary accrediting agencies. CSWE accredits the master of social work degree offered through the Carver School of Church Social Work.

The accreditation investigation was prompted by last spring's controversy surrounding the Carver School but encompassed a broader range of issues. The Carver School crisis surfaced last March when Mohler fired the school's dean, Diana Garland, after she told students Mohler's restrictive hiring policies threatened the school's accreditation.

Seminary trustees subsequently voted to affirm Mohler's actions and enacted permanent changes in the faculty hiring process. Trustees also banned faculty, staff, and students from criticizing the administration publicly.

Israelis announce discovery of possible Hasmonean tombs

A system of caves containing tombs from the Hashmonean Dynasty was discovered the week of Nov. 13 near the city of Modi'in, Israel, according to the Consulate General of Israel in New York.

Archeologists believe the find to be very important following the discovery of tombs with part of the word "Hasmonean" engraved in Hebrew. This would be the first time any archeological object was recovered containing the word "Hasmonean."

The discovery reinforces the hypothesis that the city of Modi'in is located in the same area as the ancient city of Modi'in — where the Hashmonean revolt broke out in 167 B.C.E.

The excavations revealed a tract of burial sites belonging to Jewish aristocrat families which is divided into three rooms. The corridor is constructed with granite stone. The sarcophagi are lavishly engraved, including names and texts in Hebrew and Greek.

Other state conventions...

Kentucky and Oklahoma

Kentucky

OWENSBORO, Ky. (ABP) — Kentucky Baptists voted to remove their two assemblies from direct control of the state convention's Executive Board and rebuffed a challenge to the state Baptist newspaper, the **Western Recorder**.

Meeting in the West Kentucky city of Owensboro, messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's (KBC) annual meeting elected Bill Tichenor president from a three-candidate field.

Tichenor, pastor of First Church, Princeton, won the presidency over Bill Patterson, pastor of First Church, Henderson, and Tyre Denney, pastor of Alton Church, Lawrenceburg. None of the candidates publicly identified with either conservative or moderate political movements in the state.

At the same convention session, Ray Werline, pastor of Cuba Church, Mayfield, offered a motion to defund the **Western Recorder**. Werline, a frequent advocate of linking the Kentucky Baptist Convention to the conservative-led Southern Baptist Convention, charged the **Recorder** should narrow its editorial policy to require more favorable reporting and editorializing on the SBC.

The motion ultimately was defeated on a show-of-hands vote by an estimated four-to-one margin.

The **Western Recorder**, a KBC agency, receives about \$300,000 annually from the convention. That contribution repre-

sents 31.3% of the paper's annual budget.

Werline claimed the **Recorder** "generally" editorializes and reports on the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in a "positive manner" while "generally" editorializing and reporting on Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions in a "negative manner."

Werline said the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship are splinter groups that attempt to detract from the SBC and therefore should not be the subject of articles or editorials in the **Recorder**. "One purpose of the **Recorder** should be to further the interests of the Southern Baptist Convention, its agencies and institutions," he said.

Werline further charged that editorials in the **Recorder** have "personally attacked some of our good and godly men" who lead these SBC agencies. Although not mentioning him by name, Werline referred to Albert Mohler, president of Southern Seminary in Louisville.

Lynn Traylor, minister of youth at First Church, Sonora, spoke against Werline's motion.

"There are times when we read things in our paper that make us upset," Traylor admitted. But the **Recorder** provides a forum for all Kentucky Baptists to express their opinions, he added. "Those of us who fill the pulpit realize we would not like to have our hands tied," he continued.

Bill Thurman, a Lexington attorney and chairman of the

newspaper's board, called Werline's motion an attempt at "economic censorship."

Oklahoma

EDMOND, Okla. (ABP) — Oklahoma Baptists overwhelmingly approved a budget that cuts funding to the Southern Baptist Convention in their annual convention Nov. 13-15.

Leaders of the Baptist Convention of Oklahoma recommended the two-point reduction in the percentage of the state's unified budget that is forwarded to the national organization. The new budget will send 40% of a \$17.9 million Cooperative Program budget to the SBC.

Only a handful of messengers voted against the cut, which leaders say is necessary to provide more funds for state convention ministries.

Critics of the plan said it takes money away from foreign missions, the largest recipient of SBC funds. Reed Lynn, a member of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, urged Oklahoma churches to increase their giving so that the national convention's foreign and home missions work doesn't suffer.

The convention deferred until next year discussion on a constitutional change, proposed by Billy Bissell, pastor of Boston Avenue Church in Muskogee. If approved next year, the change will require the state convention to reject funds from churches that are not in good standing in their associations or do not substantially support the work of the convention.

Baptist Record taps three new writers to begin duties on Jan. 4

The **Baptist Record** will begin publishing the Sunday School lesson commentaries of three new writers on Jan. 4.

David R. Mitchell Jr., pastor of Van Winkle Church in Jackson, will write commentaries on the Baptist Sunday School Board's Uniform lesson series. Clayton Littlejohn, pas-



Mitchell

tor of Ingram Church, Baldwin, will comment on the Bible Book series of lessons. Linda B. Donnell, layperson from Hattiesburg, will write the Life and Work series commentaries.

Ackerman native Mitchell is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He formerly served as pastor of Westwood Church, Meridian; and Locust Street Church, McComb; and as minister of education at Carrollton Avenue

Church, New Orleans; and minister to youth and children at Briar Hill Church, Florence.

He was also a summer missionary in Phoenix, Ariz., and worked at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian.

He was called to the pastorate of Van Winkle Church in August 1995.

Mitchell is married and has four children.

Littlejohn is a Baldwin native. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College, and has attended New Orleans Seminary. His former places of service include: Hamilton Church, Benton County; Blackwater Church, Kemper County; and New Salem Church, Tishomingo County.

He is married and has three children.

Donnell holds the bachelor's and master's degrees in home

economics education, and the doctoral degree in administration in higher education. She has served as assistant professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, and currently works alongside her husband in the operation of three local businesses.

She is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg, and serves on the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Leadership Team for the church. She also served the state WMU Executive Board as chairman and on the policy/personnel committee.

An experienced writer, speaker, and conference leader, Donnell is the co-author of three college-level text books, and numerous educational and business articles.

The three writers will serve **The Baptist Record** for the first six months of 1996.



Littlejohn



Donnell



Letters to the editor



Letters to the Editor policy

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

All correspondence is subject to editing. Letters must be limited to 250 words.

No more than one letter will be printed during a 3-month period from any individual. Each correspondent must include an address and the name of his or her church.

When in the judgment of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with that subject will be terminated.

In special instances, when to identify the writer of a letter might cause undue embarrassment, the name will be withheld.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

To honor Graham

Editor:

Even though many honors have been bestowed upon our brother in Christ, Billy Graham, there is one more that I think should be added to the list.

He may not agree if he is asked, but I think Billy Graham's birthday should be entered on calendars that are large enough to hang on a wall. It appears that his remaining active days are relatively few in comparison to his many years of service for our Lord, and we need to keep him in our prayers.

Paul Wiggins
Hattiesburg

Missed coverage

Editor:

What did I like best about our recent convention? Quite naturally I liked the music best of all. I also enjoyed seeing democracy in action. However, I am writing to point out that your paper overlooked some very important facts. Lew King was asked to

compose music for the convention theme, "Compelled by His Love," which he did very well, and no mention was made of that fact. Nor was there anything in the news coverage concerning the first session of the convention, which in my estimation was one outstanding morning. And I would like to add that my daughter, Amee Anderson, a recent graduate of the University of Mobile, was asked to open the convention singing Lew King's composition. And everyone present will agree that the choir of First Church, Pascagoula, did an outstanding job preparing the mood for the convention.

But what I am truly upset about is the fact that I have not seen the address of the president, Rex Yancey, printed anywhere! Everything that has been printed would lead one to believe that we really had no opening session of the convention, and the only thing that took place that morning was the election of a new president. Far from it! I truly believe that what I heard from Rex Yancey in the opening ses-

sion was one of the finest sermons ever preached. And I believe that every Baptist in the state of Mississippi deserves the opportunity to share in it. In a time when there are factions on all sides pulling in all directions, Yancey's sermon was truly a shelter from the storm.

Iris L. Anderson
Pascagoula

Editor's Note: *Oops! We will try to do better next year.*

All need a Barnabas

Editor:

I have always been a strong believer in encouraging people and know the Scriptures back it up.

BSSB apologizes for software problems

NASHVILLE (BP) — Delays in providing updated computer software for the 1995 Annual Church Profile (ACP) have caused problems and frustrations for state convention, associational, and church leaders, the Baptist Sunday School Board has acknowledged.

The ACP, formerly known as the Uniform Church Letter, is a statistical tool churches use in reporting statistics on attendance, stewardship, numerical growth, and participation in church organizations. After completing the ACP, a church sends the information to its associational office, where the information is recorded and passed on to Baptist state convention offices and eventually

to the Baptist Sunday School Board where nationwide statistics are compiled. According to Cliff Tharp, supervisor of the board's strategic information unit, a small portion of the ACP was still being compiled manually in 1994. The BSSB redesigned the software in 1995 not only to update it, but to enable churches, associations, and state conventions to complete the entire process electronically. Problems in completing the redesign delayed diskette distribution to churches, he said.

I received a call very late that night from this young man. He said that he wanted to thank me

for the encouragement and believing in him. He said he actually was leaving and had driven about 70 miles down the road. He remembered what I said. So great was his conviction that he pulled over and parked. He prayed and felt he had received a change of heart. He turned the automobile around, headed for home, and then called me.

I called him this morning and he said, "You'll never know how much it meant to me that you believed in me. It is more than words can say. I felt like Paul on the Damascus road. I have made a commitment to stay with my wife."

Claude A. Frazier, M.D.
Asheville, N.C.

At a Nov. 18 meeting, the Alabama Conference of Associational Directors of Missions voted unanimously to send a letter to BSSB President James T. Draper

Jr. expressing their "strong disapproval of the 1995 version of the Annual Church Profile."

The DOMs, according to an article in *The Alabama Baptist*, complained about the difficulty of using the software (including the inability to print out "Part B" of the report or use it on a computer network); the board's delay in distributing it; and BSSB response to the problems.

The Sunday School Board had admitted and apologized for problems with the '95 software in an article in the October issue of *Facts & Trends*, the agency's corporate newsletter which is mailed to pastors, church staff, and other denominational leaders, including DOMs.

WMU's new adult organization designed to meet women's needs

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — Southern Baptist women involved in the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) adult women's organization did things differently in October.

For one thing, they no longer were members of Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women, which had been the names of WMU's women's organizations since 1970. Instead, they signed up to be charter members of Women on Mission, which is designed to involve women 18 years and up in missions.

To start the new year, a celebration experience introduced Women on Mission to all the women of the church through worship, music, testimonies, prayer, and other elements.

In addition to the celebration experience, many of the women also met in small groups. Women on Mission differed from Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women in that small groups were based on the needs and interests of the women instead of their age. While one small group was an

exercise group that prayed for missions, another group spent their time together doing crafts to prepare for a missions project, while other groups chose to do Bible study or improve their witnessing skills. Each church or campus organization customized their Women on Mission small groups.

Another difference was their magazine. No longer was *Royal Service* or *Contempo* delivered to their mailboxes. Instead, subscribers to the two magazines received the first copy of WMU's new adult magazine, *Missions Mosaic*.

The response to Women on Mission has been overwhelmingly positive, Andrea Mullins, WMU adult program specialist, stated.

"Among women nationwide, there is a lot of excitement about these changes," she said. "We are receiving numerous letters and calls reporting explosive growth, both in the number of women involved and the variety of approaches offered by churches for women."

Send The Light



A Celebration of Commitment by People on Mission With God

Come see the appointment of new Southern Baptist missionaries for work overseas.

Broadmoor Baptist Church
Memphis, Tennessee
December 12th * 7:30 p.m.

Foreign Mission Board
of the Southern Baptist Convention

Just for the Record



Strong Hope Church, Wesson, recently held a recognition service for its GAs (top) and Acteens (above), along with the church's librarian, Joan Beasley, "for paving the way for the young girls to achieve by providing the books and information each needs." Also recognized were members of the retiring BYW group. Those women with perfect attendance were: Dianne and Kathy Mullins, 16 years; Pam Moore, two years; and Karen Middleton, one year.

GAs (from left) are: front row, Jessica Hale, Amanda Hale, Mandy Elkins, Crystal Ryan, Kellie Ryan, Kristen Jackson, Beth Ryan; second row, Maggie Morgan, Ashley Grantham, Heather Morgan, and Cassie Smith. With them are Peggy Hale and Beverly Holly, GA leaders.

Acteens (and attendants) are: Lacie King, queen with scepter, with Aaron Cagle; Holly Ferguson, queen regent, with Maggie Morgan; Allison Page, queen with scepter, with Ford Nations; Seprina Warren, queen, with Amanda Hale; Patricia Ryan, queen with scepter, with Kelly Ryan; and Sarah Stricklin, queen, with Crystal Ryan.



Oakland Church, Walnut, recently honored its teachers and workers. The theme of the appreciation banquet and "round-up" was western. Seated from left are Valeria Weatherly, Caryl Jo Mullins, Diane Weatherly, April Scott, Sonya Joyner, Cindy McCoy; second row, Christine Janes, Mary Dollar, Mae and Lee Brown, and Lamar Reed. Third row, Earlene Henson, Ruth Martindale, Jack Street, Tollie Scott, Jamie Booker, Nettie Brown, Billie and S. A. Tapp. Fourth row, J.C. Brown, Bruce Janes, Roy Mullins, Randy Buse, Sue Brown, Faye Booker, Barbara Melton; fifth row, Byron Scott, Sue and Bill Mullins, Kelton Melton, Joshua Melton, Tim Weatherly, Josh Winter, Benny Weatherly, Greg Winter, Billy Thomas Joyner, Mildred and Cliff Norton, and Kevin Winter.

First Church, Mendenhall, will host a special program sponsored by **Macedonia Church, Mendenhall**, on Dec. 2 beginning at 7 p.m. The singing groups "Obadiah" and "Hosanna" will perform in concert, along with soloist Cindy Sanders Wallace. Donations will be taken at the door. All proceeds will be used to defray the medical expenses of Macedonia's pastor Charles Case, who was recently diagnosed with cancer. He formerly served the congregation for 14 years, and is now its interim pastor.

The Mississippi College Music Department will present its 10th annual "Festival of Lights" Christmas Celebration Dec. 7 and 8. The event will be held at 8:15 p.m. both nights in Spell Auditorium of Provine Chapel. Admission is free.

The Winters School of Music at William Carey College will present Handel's Messiah on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. in the Dumas Smith Auditorium. Admission is free. The performance will combine orchestra and chorus and marks the second year the Chorale has presented the work. Milfred Valentine, dean of the School of Music, commented that the public response last year was so positive that a repeat performance was in order.

Benton Church, Benton, will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Dec. 3. Sunday School will begin at 10 a.m., worship services will begin at 11, and a covered dish dinner will be served at noon. A song service will be held after lunch.



Gene Neal (right), pastor of Oakdale Church, Brandon, presents a check to Mississippi **Stanley Stamps**, Southern Baptist missionary to Honduras, to assist Stamps in his ministry to the Mosquitia Indians of Honduras. Oakdale Church in recent months has provided gifts of ceiling fans for the Honduran Baptist Camp, as well as an outboard motor that will enable Stamps to reach otherwise-inaccessible areas where the Mosquitia live. The church is planning future projects to assist Stamps and another Southern Baptist missionary, Tom Canady, in their Honduran work.



Williamsville Church, Kosciusko, held Acteens Recognition Service on Sept. 24. All five Acteens achieved Queen level and received a crown. The Baptist Young Women honored the Acteens with a reception. Pictured from left are Ashley James, Darlene Moore, Erin Reynolds, Kelly Hubbard, leader, Erin Riley, and Diana Rone. Doug Hubbard is youth pastor and Allen Simpson is pastor.



The State High School Slowpitch Softball Tournament was recently held at **Woodville Heights Church, Jackson**. Park Place Church, Pearl, (top photo) won first place and Montgomery Church, Summit, (bottom photo) was second place winner.



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Thank You Mississippi Baptists!

This coming January, I will begin my 26th year of preaching revivals and crusades. I have had the privilege of being in many fine churches in Mississippi. Thank you Mississippi Baptists for giving me the opportunity to serve the Lord and His churches. To God be the glory for the great things He has done over these past 25 years.



Evangelist Phil Glisson

3638 Macon Rd., Memphis, TN 38122
(901) 324-3459 or 324-7169

Newest in Books

Thursday, November 30, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

The Heart Binder for the Wounded, by Ruby Buckley. A heart seeking the truth and finding the truth is a delicate, precious thing. (Gems of Grace, Box 1285, Prentiss, MS 39474; 133 pp.)

The Gospel According to First Grade, by Patricia Ann Fisher. Let laughter and giggles prevail — from the author of **Lord, Don't Let It Rain at Recess**. (Zonder-van, 156 pp.).

My Mommy and Me — Story Bible, by Tracy Harrast. Helps little hearts learn to love the Bible. (Zondervan, 166 pp.).

Opening Lines, by Susie Shel-lenberger and Greg Johnson. 458 great conversation starters when you're on a date. (Broadman & Holman, 114 pp.).

Amen and Good Morning, God, by Jo Huddleston. Simple prayers to help you release the concerns of the day into God's loving care. **Amen and Good Night, God**, companion volume. (Tyn-dale, 121 pp. each).

Kids Say the Greatest Things About God, by Dandi Daley MacKail. A kid's eye view of life's biggest subject. (Tyndale, small size).

On Eagle's Wings, by David R. Veerman. Best-loved Bible pas-sages to uplift and inspire. (Tyn-dale, 102 pp.).

A Love Affair with God, by C. Welton Gaddy. Finding freedom and intimacy in prayer. (Broadman & Holman, 192 pp.).

Angels and the New Spiritual-ity, by Duane A. Garrett. Have Christians allowed New Age think-ing to shape their beliefs about angels? (Broadman & Holman, 261 pp.).

B.H. Carroll, Baptists and Their Doctrines, by Timothy and Denise George. A valuable

spiritual development tool. (Broadman & Holman, 277 pp.).

The Exodus Principle, by Gary L. McIntosh. A five-part strategy to free your people for ministry. (Broadman & Holman, 204 pp.).

In His Steps, by Charles M. Sheldon. 100th anniversary collec-tor's edition. (Broadman & Hol-man, 239 pp.).

Beyond the Rat Race, by Glen Martin. Desperate people trying to make every minute count — going faster but going nowhere. (Broad-man & Holman, 170 pp.).

The Passionate Edge, by Glo-ria Kempton. Living a full life in an empty world. (Broadman & Holman, 180 pp.).

Bertha Smith, Go Home and Tell, by Timothy and Denise George. Explore the heart of a great missionary — through her own eyes. (Broadman & Holman, 277 pp.).

Does God Care If I Can't Pay My Bills, by Linda K. Taylor. Practical help and encouragement for weathering your financial crises. (Tyndale Press, 118 pp.).

Best Loved Bible Stories in dramatic stereo. Bible stories can be fun for kids — just entertaining, warm, funny goofy stories. Two 30-minute stories on each cassette and a 48-page booklet. (Tyndale).

The Holy Spirit Today, by Mississippi resident Frank Stagg. Explores how the Holy Spirit is relevant to the needs and problems of today. (Smyth & Helwys, 96 pp.; \$8.95).

Expository Preaching, by Harold T. Bryson. The art of preaching through a book of the Bible. Gives a clear definition to expository preaching and then teaches — step by step. By a Mis-sissippi College professor. (Broad-man & Holman, 437 pp.).

Seek the Peace of the City, by Eldin Villafane. A summons to today's churches to give primacy once again to urban ministry. (Eerdman, 146 pp.; \$13).

Names in the News

Martin Cuellar, instructor of piano at William Carey College, recently returned from a two week tour of Spain where he partic-ipated in a nation-wide revival held by Spanish Bap-tists. Cuellar has been active-ly involved in mis-sions endeavors with the Foreign Mission Board since 1991.

Danny Lanier, music evange-list, will be in concert at Antioch Church, Columbus, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. He will also preach during the morning worship service on Dec. 3. Edward N. Knox is pastor.

Richard Polzin, member of First Church, Jackson, and author of **Worthy is the Child**, will be at Castlewoods Church, Brandon, on Dec. 3. He will tell stories from his book in the children's classes at



Fellowship Church, Mathiston, honored **Erlene Breland** for 21 years as church clerk. She was pre-sented a corsage and a plaque. Ralph Cain is pastor.



Central Church, Golden, conducted a deacon ordination on Sept. 10. Pictured from left are **Rocky Hughes**, his wife Christy; **Jackie Hastings**, his wife Patsy; **Kane Harris**, his wife Christy; and **Ronnie Brown**, his wife Janie. Ralph Culp is pastor.

9:15 a.m. and in the 10:30 a.m. worship service. At 6 p.m. he will share more stories and give his tes-timony in the evening worship ser-vice. Larry S. McDonald is pastor.

David Martin of Clarksdale recently had a poem, "Prayer of Love," chosen for publication in the book, **Famous Poems of Today**. Martin, 28, is a member of Clarksdale Church.

William Carey College head baseball coach **Bobby Halford** was recently named the 1995 NAIA Southwest Region Coach of the Year by the American Base-ball Coaches Association. He will receive the award on Jan. 6 at the ABCA's national convention in Nashville, where the National Coach of the Year will be select-ed. During his 10-year tenure at Carey, Halford has compiled a 343-183 career record. He also won Southwest Region Coach of the Year honors in 1990.



Susie Lee was honored at Green's Creek Church, Petal, on Oct. 22 for teaching Sunday School for the 50 years she has been a member. She is the mother of Robert Allen Lee, pastor of Good Hope Church, Purvis, and Evelyn Sue Wilson, a member of Green's Creek Church. Mike Routon, pastor, presented "Miss Susie" with a plaque.

Persistence essential part of evangelism

By Greg Potts

A man and his family recently moved into the community. I dropped by his home one after-noon to introduce myself and invite them to worship with us. He was very cordial and told me he appreciated my invitation.

For the next several months I dropped by his home when his car was there and chatted with him. On many of my visits, I did not even mention church. I was just trying to get acquainted.

In the spring of 1991, our church scheduled Friend Day. Everyone in our church was encouraged to invite a friend to Bible study and worship. The Lord laid this man on my heart.

A few weeks before Friend Day, I stopped by his home. After chatting for a while, I asked if he would come as my friend to Bible study. He said he would. I was shocked, but tried to conceal my

amazement!

When Friend Day arrived, he and his family rolled up in their mini-van. He sat on the back row in our sanctuary during my Sun-day School lesson. It was obvious he was uncomfortable, but he was there.

That day he heard the gospel, met some wonderful Christian people, and experienced the excitement of a big day in the house of the Lord. At the end of the service, I told him how glad I was that he had attended.

Several months later, I shared the plan of salvation with him. I asked if he would like to ask Jesus into his heart. He paused a moment and said he would! We prayed and he invited Jesus into his heart.

Several weeks passed. My friend and his family began attend-ing church but he would never

"walk the aisle" and join. A couple of months later, I was again visiting his home and told him it wasn't going to get any easier. I said, "Why don't you come tomorrow?"

Again, he thought for a moment and indicated that he would. I left his home with my fingers crossed.

The very next day, when the invi-tation was given, he and his family came forward to unite with our church. I was one happy preacher!

The next day, thumbing through old prospect cards, I noticed I had first visited my friend on Feb. 3, 1990.

He joined our church on Feb. 2, 1992 — two years of visitation, prayer, invitations for this man to profess faith in Jesus as Savior, and profess it publicly. Visitation pays off.

Is there someone you have been praying for and inviting to church who has not responded? Do not give up. Do not get discouraged. Someone in your circle of friends needs to know Christ. He would come to church if you would invite him. Sow the seed.

Potts is pastor of First Church, Vancleave.

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Staff Changes

Harmontown Church, Lafayette Association, recently called **Tommy Williamson** as pastor. A native of Albertville, Ala., he is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis. Williamson formerly pastored churches in Rentz, Ga., and Memphis.



Williamson

First Church, Isola, has called **Gary Reichenbach** as pastor. A native of Pennsylvania, he received his education at Bloomsburg State University and New Orleans Seminary. Reichenbach previously served Yale Street Church, Cleveland, and Silver City Church, Silver City.

Ken Hembree was called to **Hebron Ridge Church, Clarke Association**, as pastor, effective Nov. 5.

East Heights Church, Tupelo, has called **Mike Hatfield** as minister of education effective Nov. 19. A native of Booneville, he received his education at Blue Mountain College and Southwestern Seminary. His previous place of service was West Heights Church, Pontotoc.

First Church, Union, has called **Ron Taylor** as minister of music and activities. He received his education at Union High School, Clarke College, Mississippi College, and the University of Arkansas. He previously served Calvary Church, Batesville, Ark.



Taylor

Raymond Anthony (Tony) Mienhardt has been called as pastor of **Rolling Creek Church**,

Quitman, effective Nov. 26. He attended Clarke College and has an associate degree from Alabama Southern Community College. He previously served churches in Alabama.

Pleasant Hill Church, Columbus, has called **Rusty Thomaston** as minister of youth and education, effective Nov. 26. A native of Gautier, he is a graduate of William Carey College. His previous place of service was Trinity Church, Laurel.



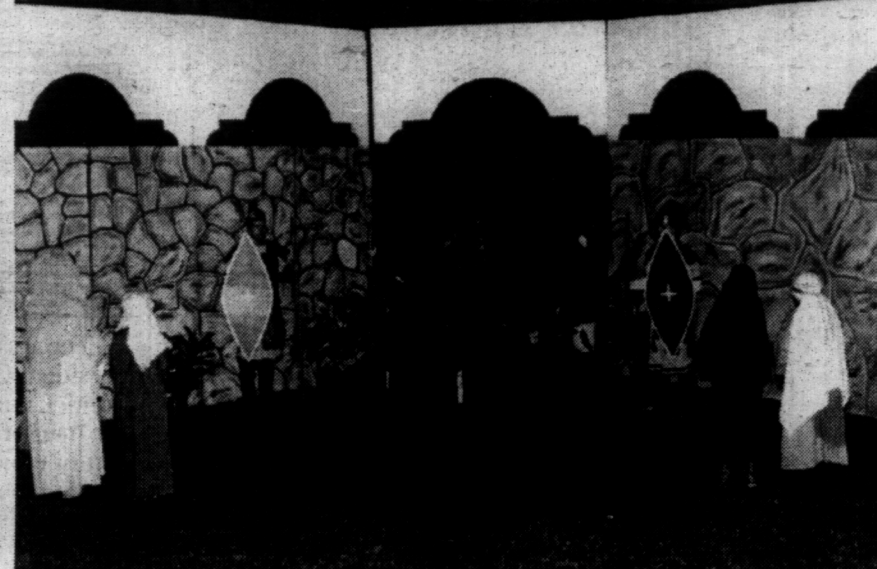
Thomaston

Revival Dates

Oak Grove, Shubuta: Dec. 3-8; 7 p.m.; Grady Crowell, director of missions, Clarke Association, evangelist; Jo Ann Carpenter, Oak Grove Church, music; Billy Whitaker, pastor.

New Bethel, Philadelphia: Dec. 3-6; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Little Rock, Miss., evangelist; Mary Donald, music; Brenda Lepend, organist; Ramona Adcock, pianist; James E. Griffith, pastor.

Christmas Programs



Improve Church, Columbia, will host its ninth annual "Scenes of Christ" outdoor drama presentation on Dec. 9 and 10, from 6-8 p.m. The 12 scenes of the presentation, along with narrators, trace Jesus' steps from his birth to his ascension. In the photo above, the trial of Christ before Pilate is depicted. For more information, call the church at (601) 736-4947.

Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, will present its choir, orchestra, and drama cast in the Christmas pageant "Gloria! Night of Nights," on Dec. 9-11 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, call the church at (601) 956-5000. Richard Powell is pastor.

Rolling Creek Church, Quitman, will present its choir in the Christmas musical, "In Adoration of the King of Kings," at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 9, and Sunday, Dec. 10.

Antioch Church, Brandon, will hold several Christmas-related events in the coming weeks. On Dec. 10 at 6 p.m., the children will present their Christmas program, "Christmas Brings Joy," and the youths will present "The Christmas Tree — The Light of the World." A fellowship will follow the program. On Dec. 17 at 6 p.m., the adult choir will present "A Homemade Christmas" in the fellowship hall. Cynthia Stuart is choir director; Marion Spence is pastor.

BMH-Memphis begins health sciences school

In September, Baptist Memorial Health Care System (BMHCS) celebrated the "birth" of the Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences in Memphis.

Adjacent to BMH-Medical Center in Memphis, the college combines the former BMH School of Nursing with Baptist's radiological sciences and respiratory care programs.

The School of Nursing has offered a three-year diploma program since 1912, and the radiological and respiratory programs were either one or two year programs. The new college will offer four-

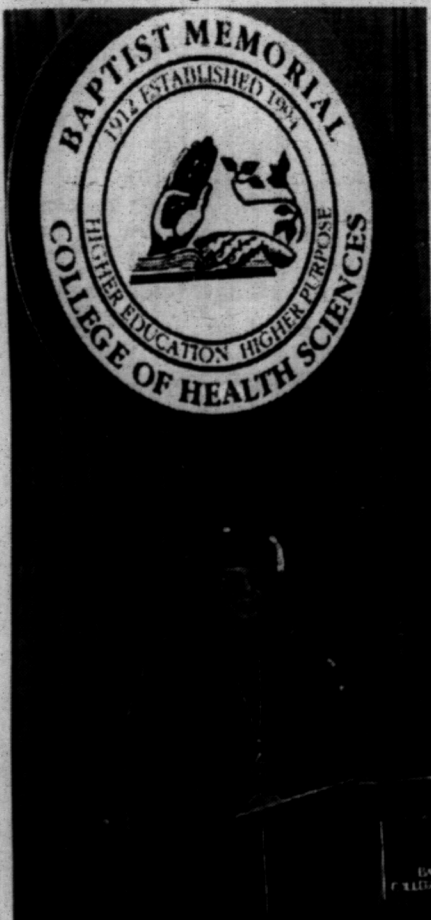
year baccalaureate degrees in nursing, respiratory care technology, and radiological sciences for beginning students, and completion degree programs for professionals already in the health care fields.

Charles Baker, BMH executive vice president, notes that the new college is a milestone in the fulfillment of the BMHCS mission paralleling the three-fold mission of Christ — preaching, teaching, and healing. Its emphasis will be to prepare students for the radically redefined health care delivery system of the 21st century.

Rose Temple, the college's first president, was inaugurated in a ceremony dedicating the new college on Sept. 19. Temple was formerly administrative dean for BMHCS's educational programs.

Classes began in August with the arrival of 251 students already enrolled in the nursing diploma program, 50 students enrolled in radiological sciences, and 33 new freshmen students in general studies. Additional students are being accepted in the general studies curriculum in January 1996.

William H. Preston Jr. of **Booneville**, chairman of the BMHCS board of directors and former BMHCS trustee, summed up the direction of the new college by saying, "We want to continue the tradition that the people we are caring for are patients and not just clients or consumers; that each patient should be treated as if indeed they might be Christ himself.... The people we educate here are going to be sought after and exert tremendous influence by their attitude.... It's going to be the most effective mission we have; certainly one of the most far-reaching."



Temple

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Uniform For those who hurt



By Andy Brasher
Isaiah 40

PAIN! It's the most common of all human experiences. Every person feels some form of pain each day. Whether it be a physical, social, mental, emotional, or spiritual ache, pain still hurts regardless of the source. To put it mildly, the world is saturated with hurting people who are searching for a moment of comfort. Several years ago, I heard an elderly man say that the only difference in pain that he felt at 80 as compared to 20 was, now it hurts worse and longer.

The longer we live on this planet, the more pain we'll experience. To be human is to feel and know pain. There is simply no way to escape it. The question we must ask ourselves then is not so much how to prevent pain, but how to comfort those who are hurting.

People often seek relief from pain through various means. Some individuals use alcohol or drugs (illegal or legal) to stop their hurts, others seek counseling from mental health professionals, a few simply try to ignore it in hope that it might go away. In reality, all of these cures (good and bad) are simply placebos. Their effect is short term.

In this week's lesson, Isaiah tells us that only through God can our hurts, aches, and pains truly be comforted.

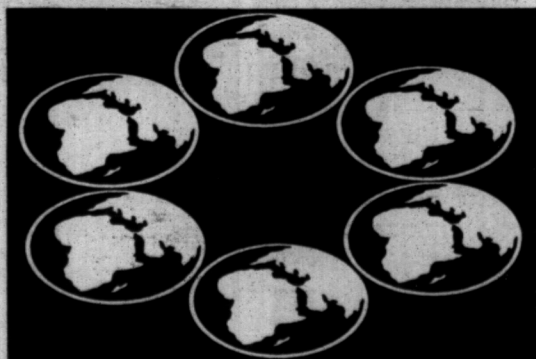
God's call to comfort his people (vv. 1-2). First, pain is a by-product of sin. Some people do not like to accept or acknowledge that concept, but it is the truth! The pain that Isaiah speaks of was due to Israel's disobedience and iniquity. In verse 2, Isaiah writes, "that her iniquity has been removed." Do not be misled — we suffer because of our sinfulness. Yet, in the case of Israel, God had mercy and sought to comfort them.

God's coming to his people (vv. 3-5). Because God had forgiven Israel he tells Isaiah to communicate with them that he is coming. Is there anything more comforting than to know that in your time of pain and sorrow, God is in your midst? God is in your corner; he is personally involved in comforting the hurts you experience. What more could one ask? In response to God's coming, Isaiah told the children of Israel to prepare for his coming. The intended meaning is clear. As God's children, we are to ready our hearts and minds for his arrival and the healing he will bring.

God's eternal Word (vv. 6-8). Humanity is like the grass. After a season of growth, winter comes and we fade away. Life is fleeting. The small pains that we experience through life will eventually lead to our last. No amount of exercise, diet control, or vitamin supplement will change the process. It is inevitable; we will die. However, one thing will not — the eternal Word of God. The Word of God is the ultimate source for comforting our pain. Unlike us, it is everlasting, and within its pages one can find the path to eternal comfort.

God's strength and gentleness (vv. 9-11). Isaiah tells Israel to "lift up their voice." The reason is, we have something to rejoice about. In spite of the pain and suffering, in the end we will be sustained by God's strength, feel the gentleness of his mercy, and enjoy the full rewards of being like lambs carried gently unto his bosom, living out eternity in his presence and comfort.

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.



**Reshaping Our
World View**

Bible Book Return to former sins



By Larry McDonald
Nehemiah 13

The Associated Press in March of last year reported that President Clifford Kurt of the Better Business Bureau in South Carolina was preparing to make a speech on ethics in the market place. He went to the library to research the subject of ethics, but the librarian explained that their only book on business ethics had been stolen.

There is a basic problem in this world. People have a bent toward sin. Left unchecked, this causes an accelerated loss of morality. Even for the believer, if he does not rely upon the power of God, he often falters. Such was the case with the people in Nehemiah's day. They had just come through a great revival. They once again worshipped God and followed his Word. But over time, they fell back into the same sins. Nehemiah was not a man to allow this to continue. He sought to expose these areas so the people would once again align themselves with God's Word.

The first issue Nehemiah dealt with was reinstituting the offerings (vv. 10-12). The house of God was being neglected to the point that the Levites and singers had to return to working in their own fields for support. God's leaders have always been supported by God's people. When this is not done, it is a clear violation of God's intention. Because of the lack of giving, the temple was being neglected. This reflected a lack of priority in the people's lives. Nehemiah called them back to support the house of God with their offerings.

The second issue Nehemiah dealt with was correcting the violations of the Sabbath (vv. 15-19a). The violations were clear. People were not honoring God. They were busy with their business ventures trying to make a buck. The Sabbath was meant to be a day of rest. Its roots go back to creation where God rested on the seventh day. It was reiterated as the fourth of the Ten Commandments. Nehemiah called the people back to holy living by reminding them of the importance of keeping the Sabbath holy.

The third issue Nehemiah dealt with was the marrying of foreign wives (vv. 23-26a). The Jewish people were marrying people who worshipped other gods. The issue was not a racial one, but an issue of being drawn into worshipping false gods. This led to a clear violation of the first of the Ten Commandments. God does not allow room in a believer's life for rival gods. He demands not only first place, but also that he be the only one. Nehemiah called the people back to marry only people who acknowledge the God of the universe.

Charles Swindoll, in his book **Strengthening Your Grip**, tells of a bone-weary father dragging into his home late one evening. It had been one of those unbelievable days of pressure, deadlines, and demands. He looked forward to a quiet time of relaxation. Exhausted, he picked up the evening paper and headed for his favorite easy chair by the fireplace. About the time he got his shoes untied, plop! into his lap dropped his 5-year-old son with an excited grin on his face.

"Hi, Dad. Let's play!"

He loved his boy dearly, but his need for a little time all alone to repair and think was, for the moment, a greater need than time with Junior. But how could he maneuver it?

There had been a recent moon probe and the newspaper carried a huge picture of earth. With a flash of much-needed insight, the dad asked his boy to bring a pair of scissors and some transparent tape. Quickly, he cut the picture of earth into various shapes and sizes, then handed the pile of homemade jigsaw puzzle pieces to the boy.

"You tape it all back together, Danny, then come on back and we'll play, okay?"

Off scampered the child to his room as dad breathed a sigh of relief. But in less than 10 minutes the boy bounded back with everything taped perfectly in place. Stunned, the father asked: "How'd you do it so fast, Son?"

"Aw, it was easy, Daddy. You see, there is this picture of a man on the back of the sheet. And when you put the man together, the world comes together."

It is only as we learn to deal with our sins by coming to Christ and following him that we become whole people seeking to produce a healthy world.

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

Life and Work Jesus: The Word



By Bob Rogers
John 1

A TV personality asked a boy what his favorite Christmas carole was. He answered, "I only know two: 'Jingle Bells' and 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.'"

Such ignorance of the real meaning of Christmas is the reason we need the kind of study we embark upon in December. "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" is our theme, and our texts (except Dec. 24) come from the truths taught in the Gospel of John about who Jesus is.

The divinity of Jesus Christ is stated frequently and explicitly in John. Chapter one states this truth in several ways:

1. Jesus is the Word of God. There are several reasons why God may have inspired John to refer to Jesus by the Greek term *logos*, translated "Word." *Logos* was used by Greek philosophers to mean thought, word, matter, nature, being, power, and reason. Jews thought of the Word of God as the Law of Moses, but John says Jesus is the Word (notice the contrast in verse 17).

2. Jesus is divine. The last phrase in verse 1 states Jesus' divinity explicitly: "the Word was God."

Jehovah's Witnesses, in their New World Translation, claim that the last phrase in verse 1 should be translated, "and the Word was a god," thus implying that Jesus was a semi-god, not equal with Jehovah.

Jehovah's Witnesses get this from the fact that the Greek in verse 1 uses the definite article (the word "the") before *theos*, God, the first time *theos* is used. But there is no definite article the second time *theos* is used, when it refers to Jesus, the Word of God. They claim this somehow makes a distinction between a greater and lesser divinity.

However, their translation is inconsistent. In Greek, there is no definite article in front of "God" in verses 6, 12, 13, or 18. Yet Jehovah's Witnesses admit that those verses refer to "God," not "a god." So the Jehovah's Witness use of the indefinite article (the word "a") in front of God in verse 1 is based on poor Greek scholarship.

There is no way around it: John 1:1 says that Jesus is God! As God, Jesus has always existed. Verse 2 says, "He was with God in the beginning." As God, Jesus participated in creation. Verse 3 says, "Through him all things were made." More is said about his creating work in verse 10: "He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him."

3. Jesus gives life and light. Verse 4 says, "In him was life, and that life was the light of men."

"Life" refers to the abundant and meaningful existence that Jesus offers to the Christian (10:10). "Light" refers to the truth of Jesus' message (8:31-32).

There is disagreement about how to translate the last phrase of verse 5, "the darkness has not understood it." The Greek verb translated "understood" is *katalambano*, which literally means "to take, to lay hold of." Since the context has to do with light against dark, the Contemporary English Version probably translates it best: "the darkness has never put it out."

4. Jesus is God Incarnate. Verse 14 states one of the great theological truths of the Bible: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." We call this the "incarnation," the doctrine of Christmas, that God took on flesh in Jesus Christ.

Verse 14 continues, "We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

The King James Version's familiar phrase, "only begotten," translates the Greek *monogenes*, which comes from *mono*, meaning "only," and *genos*, meaning "kind." It does not mean the only born, but the unique, one of a kind. Hebrews 11:17 uses *monogenes* of Abraham's son Isaac, even though Abraham had another son (of a different mother) named Ishmael.

As *monogenes*, Jesus was not fathered by God in a crudely physical sense, but he was the "one and only" Son of the Father in a spiritual sense (see Luke 1:35).

Class activity: List on the board the following doctrinal truths about Jesus: Word, divine, pre-existent, creator, life, light, incarnate. Find which verse describes each doctrine, and define the doctrine.

Roberts is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

capsules

NILSON FANINI REMINDS PROTESTANTS NOT TO ATTACK CATHOLICS WHEN WITNESSING: TOULOUSE, France (BP) — According to Nilson do Amaral Fanini, president of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) and a successful pastor in the predominantly Catholic country of Brazil, "Never attack, never offend Roman Catholics if you are witnessing your faith to them." Fanini, whose church is in the Rio de Janeiro area, spoke to 35 church planters from southern Europe on "Planting Churches in a Catholic Context: Cooperation or Confrontation" at a Nov. 10-13 conference in Toulouse, France, sponsored by BWA's evangelism division and organized by Jean Pierre Dassonville, general secretary of Federation of Evangelical Baptist Churches in France. Fanini said church-planting strategy in a Catholic context must be neither confrontation or cooperation. "Given our doctrinal differences, there will always be a need for Baptists to plant churches even where there are many Catholic congregations," he said, "but never attack, never offend." Fanini called for "courtesy and fellowship with those who have plowed the ground before us and who believe in many Christian doctrines precious to Baptists."

HOME MISSIONS OFFERING PASSES \$38 MILLION RECORD: ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Southern Baptists have contributed a record \$38 million to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions, and officials said that figure will rise before year's end. Home Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union leaders hailed the announcement as an indication of Southern Baptists' continuing dedication to evangelism, church starting, and ministry in America. On Nov. 8, the offering had reached \$38,103,868. The final total will not be known until the end of the year. The present total is 4.6% more than 1994's year-to-date total, said Ernest Kelley, HMB executive vice president for planning and finance. In 1992 Southern Baptists gave the previous record offering of \$37.6 million.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE A CHURCH'S SIZE OR SITE: TORREY, Utah (BP) — "Churches in out-of-the-way places," reminds Kenneth Chadwick, director of missions for Salt Lake City and Rainbow Canyon associations, "often have an impact much larger than their size and location might at first indicate." During special services at First Church in the small town of Torrey, Utah, for example, Chadwick visited with the widow of one of the church's former pastors, Pearl Watson. She told of her late husband John receiving a call at 10:30 one night from a deputy sheriff saying a young man from out of state wanted to talk to a "man of God" after being injured when his truck was in an accident. The deputy called the pastor of the only evangelical church in the county — Watson. At the clinic in Loa, Utah, Watson led the young man, Scott Bestler, in the sinner's prayer but returned home uncertain of his conversion. But doubt soon ended, as Bestler kept in touch with the Watsons, telling them of his call to the ministry, then his seminary studies and, most recently, news that he's become a missionary with All Tribes Missions.

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR CHALLENGE TO INDECENT PROGRAMMING LAW: WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Supreme Court will review a 1992 federal law restricting "indecent" programming on cable television, which opponents contend violates the First Amendment. The high court announced Nov. 13 it will review a federal appeals court ruling upholding the statute. The law authorizes cable operators to reject indecent programming on leased access channels as well as on channels set aside for public, educational, and governmental use. It also requires cable operators who elect to carry indecent programming to do so on segregated channels that can be unblocked only at the written request of a subscriber. Critics say that requirement violates free speech protections in the First Amendment. In upholding the statute, however, a divided U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia said the law is constitutional. The 7-4 appeals court decision reversed an earlier ruling by a three-judge panel of that court.

ABORTION MEASURE SENT TO COMMITTEE FOR HEARING: WASHINGTON (ABP) — The U.S. Senate recently voted 90-7 to send a House bill banning so-called "partial-birth" abortions to a committee for hearings. Opponents of the House bill said hearings would lead to more informed debate by allowing senators to hear from credible witnesses about the controversial procedure and why it is used. The House approved the ban Nov. 1 by a vote of 288-139 after debating the measure under a closed rule that barred members from offering amendments to exempt doctors who use the procedure to protect a mother's life or health. Under the House bill, doctors who perform the procedure could serve up to two years in prison if convicted. Opponents of the bill said the procedure is used only rarely and that it saves women's lives, but supporters said it is grotesque and often used electively. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., made the motion for the hearings. A committee staffer said he expects hearings early in December.

And seeing their faith...

"Miracle" pastor preaches again after six-month pulpit absence

By Guy Henderson

Don Bozeman last preached from the pulpit at Southside Church in Jackson on May 7, 1995. He left the church that day, not knowing it would be more than six months before he would preach again.

The following week he was diagnosed with a rare lung disease of unknown origin — primary pulmonary hypertension — and was in intensive care for the next four weeks.

He lost 40 pounds, lost his ability to swallow, and had to be fed by tube. He was in the hospital for 71 days and was on a ventilator for 10 days at one stretch. No one had ever survived being on a ventilator for that length of time.

"God worked a miracle in healing," said Bozeman. "The doctor said, 'You look good for a dead man.'"

During Bozeman's critical hospital stay, the Southside Church family was constantly praying for its pastor.

A.V. Windham, associate pastor, and Rich Patrick, minister of music, along with some lay leaders, continued to minister to others and to pastor the congregation during Bozeman's lengthy absence.

Larry Garner of the Metro Association office filled in as the preacher. In every service the church had special prayer for their pastor. One layman prayed, "Please Lord, let me see him in the pulpit again."

Their prayers were answered on Nov. 19. Bozeman was there to preach, oxygen bottle and all. The people gathered expectantly and gratefully. Tears flowed and hugs were frequent. Most of Bozeman's family and church family were present.

While Bozeman continues to slowly regain the weight and stamina he lost during his hospital stay, his condition is still serious. He cannot breathe without his 5-liter oxygen tank, and remains on a St. Louis hospital's waiting list for a lung transplant. Without the transplant, the disease is incurable.

Traditionally, transplant candidates would have to be taken off waiting lists when they become



Don Bozeman, pastor of Southside Church, Jackson, suffers from a rare, incurable lung disease known as primary pulmonary hypertension. While he awaits a lung transplant, he struggles with waning stamina but calls each day and each opportunity to preach in the Southside pulpit a miracle. He preached his first Sunday morning service in six months on Nov. 19. (Photo by Guy Henderson)

critically ill to the point of hospitalization, as Bozeman was. His family said it was a miracle his Missouri doctors did not take him off that list.

His family also claims the miraculous nature of his ability to preach the charge at his son Brent's Oct. 9 ordination service.

During the Nov. 19 service, it was announced that the church had pledged 90% of next year's budget. Fittingly, the congregation sang, "To God be the Glory."

Bozeman's daughter Jan sang, "I Bow Down and Cried Glory," just before her father delivered the morning message.

Bozeman read Job 5:8-9: "But as for me, I would seek God, and to God I would commit my cause — who does great things, and unsearchable, marvelous things without number." He then called for the chairman of deacons to come and lead the prayer of thanksgiving.

Bozeman then spoke forcefully on "Things Learned After 71 Days in the Hospital," and the lessons

that have been reinforced in his life — the power of God, the prayers of God's people, and the presence of family and church family.

He related the Bible story of the four men who let their friend down through the roof (Mark 2). The sick man could not help himself, so his friends helped. He couldn't pray, so his friends prayed for him. When Christ "saw their faith" he healed the man.

"You have been my friends," said Bozeman.

"One of man's greatest accomplishments is to love and be loved in return." Don Bozeman claimed this saying for his own, and continues to experience the miraculous healing of God in his life.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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DHS EY G YMEJER: GQS RZOI RZGR FHJYZEM ZEU
UNYR FHJYZEM ZEU EQ YMEJER GQS EQ RJNRZ.

PHZQ BHNJ: RFOQRI-BHNJ

This week's clue: Q equals N.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Two: Nine.

Baptist Record

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